

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 3-5, 7, and 9-24 are currently pending in the application; Claim 6 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter is presented.

In the outstanding Official Action, Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hirose (U.S. Patent No. 5,740,468) in view of Yoshikawa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,532,234). Claims 3-5, 7, and 9-24 were indicated as being allowed. Applicants appreciatively acknowledge the indication of allowable claims.

With the cancellation of Claim 6, the outstanding rejection has been rendered moot, and places the application in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes any additional formal matter need to be addressed in order to place this application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone at the Examiner's convenience.

The present application is therefore believed to be in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable reconsideration of the present application is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAYER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Eckhard H. Kuesters
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 28,870

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 08/03)